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The Prchala Movement			23 April 1953

PERTINENT INFORMATION

Information on subject, Gen Lev PRCHALA, is extracted from the above referenced document. Verbatim

Origin and Development of the PRCHALA Movement in England

In December 1940, Czech Army General Lev PRCHALA founded the "Ceskoslovenska Narecni Rada" (CSNR - Czechoslovak National Council) in London. The purpose of this organization was to gather into one group all Czechoslovak non-Communist elements who were opposed to the policy of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile of Dr. Eduard BENES. The CSNR did not have any concrete political program except the negative one of hatred for President BENES and the policy which he represented. The small active membership was recruited largely from members of former rightist Czech and Slovak parties. PRCHALA was elected from members. He was elected chairman of the council largely because it was hoped that his social popularity in British officer circles and his good relations with rightist Poles would gain effective support for the CSNR. However, PRCHALA had no talent for the leadership of a political organization, and support from the British was not forthcoming. PRCHALA was criticised by his own adherents, the CSNR weakened, and soon the membership was so small that each member had some official function in the council.

PRCHALA visited Germany near the end of July 1950. On July 27, 1950, he had a conference with leaders of the CNS in Stuttgart. At this meeting no mention was made of any impending agreement with the Germans; only a general statement that a solution for the Sudeten problem must be found. On 4 August 1950, an agreement was signed by PRCHALA and PINKELSKY on behalf of CSNR, and by LODGMANN, REITZNER, SCHUETZ, OZENAK and SPD representative Ernst PAUL on behalf of the Sudeten Germans. It is not known precisely why Wenzel JAKSCH, member of the secretariat of the SPD, did not sign this agreement in view of his previous support of PRCHALA. Probable reasons are his awareness of the lack of support for the PRCHALA program in Czechoslovakia and his disagreement with the CNS policy of a Central European federation. The main point of the entire agreement was the stated realization of the self-evident right and necessity of the Sudeten German expellees to return to their homeland.

PRCHALA, who had returned to England in August 1950, made another trip to Germany in September 1950, accompanied by Dr. LOCHER. They met LODGMANN and SCHUETZ in

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Wiesbaden and continued to Bonn where they had conferences with various Sudeten German members of the Bonn parliament. The object of these conferences was re-organization of the CNS and CNV, attainment of a closer working agreement with the Sudeten Germans and discussion of measures to halt the decline in CNS membership. PRCHALA returned to England without visiting any of the DP camps and LOCKER followed him after visiting camps in Augsburg, Mittenwald, Valka and ULM.

The number of PRCHALA adherents in Germany reached its peak late in 1949. The marked reduction in membership since that time is the result of several causes. Not the least important factor has been the personality of PEKELSKY himself. His dictatorial behavior, his "unauthorized" interviews and his contacts with right-wing Germans have caused several members to quit in disgust. A second factor is the increasing realization among the rank and file of the movement that war-time collaborationists occupy positions of influence around PRCHALA. The third and most important factor is the signing of the above-mentioned agreement between the CNS and the "Joint Committee for Protection of Sudeten German Interests".

PRCHALA has expressed the hope that he may be able to effect agreements with the Slovak separatists headed by Karel SIDOR at a future date. Although no concrete evidence could be found of financial support of the CNS and CNV by Germans, there are persistent rumors that JAKSCH and LODGMANN supply enough funds to at least underwrite the publication of the magazine, circulation which has dropped to about one hundred subscribers. Other rumors indicate that these same leaders are beginning to feel that they are backing a movement without a future, the aims of which are not likely to be realized and which cannot contribute materially to the aims of the Sudeten German group.

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